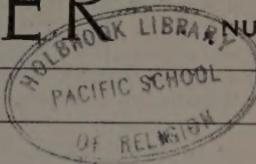


THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
NEWS LETTER

VOLUME VI  
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WINTER, 1959



## "THE TRUE AND SIMPLE THEORY OF MISSIONS"

One of the most lucid statements concerning the purpose and methods of the American Board in the early decades of its history is to be found in the following paragraph included in the report of the secretaries to the Board at its annual meeting in Hartford, Connecticut, September 15, 1836:

Human nature is found to be the same in every climate and nation. The causes which can degrade man in one land below his natural level, will exert the same depressing influence in every land where they are allowed to operate uncontrolled. On the other hand, the causes which, through the blessing of God, elevate him to a holy and happy life in one land, will have equal efficacy and are equally necessary in every other. Man can no more be enlightened without education, or holy without the gospel, in Africa or Asia, than in America. He must rise there and everywhere else by the same means by which we are raised and by which we are sustained on the scale of social life. Hence the true and simple theory of missions. They are an endeavor to extend to heathen nations the means of improvement, and especially of moral improvement, which we enjoy. They are built upon unquestioned principles of our nature, and upon our every day experience of cause and effect, as well as upon the plainest commands of the word of God. The institutions and influences which we observe to be so effectual, under God, at home, and in which we are taught to repose so much confidence, we endeavor to send abroad by means of foreign missions, and to make them the common property of mankind; not doubting at all their transforming influence, as instruments in His hands by whose command we act. These are the PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL, EDUCATION, AND THE PRESS.

FRED FIELD GOODSELL

## From the President

It was good to have the first home of our Historical Society in New York. That was where Fred Fagley lived. The office at 289 Fourth Avenue was close to the offices of our General Council and other denominational organizations. We are thankful our beginnings could be there.

Now we are glad to have our new home in Boston, at 14 Beacon Street. We believe Fred Fagley would have approved of this move.

We are fortunate indeed to have Vaughan Dabney, Dean Emeritus of Andover Newton Theological School, as our new Secretary. John Harrer, always a good friend of our Society, has welcomed us to the Congregational Library, of which he is Librarian. Congregational House is a good place for us to be.

Our purpose steadfast, we look to the future with high hopes and confident faith.

ARTHUR H. BRADFORD, President

## From the Chairman, Executive Committee

This is the first issue of the News Letter prepared by our new Secretary, Dean Dabney, from the new office at 14 Beacon Street. This move was made with the official endorsement of the Executive Committee of the General Council and the warm approval of several of our denominational executives. It seemed to all concerned the natural and necessary move.

The Congregational Library is providing the modest office space required, and the Society in turn will provide a research assistant whose services will be available both to the Library and to the Society. With this important staff addition, the historical resources of both should be even more readily available to all who seek information.

Up to now, the Historical Society has been the lengthened shadow of one man — Fred Fagley. He has stimulated and reawakened widespread interest in our heritage as spiritual descendants of the Pilgrim Faith. We believe that this interest will grow and we hope that our modest Society will be of increasing service to ministers and churches.

ALBERT J. PENNER,  
Chairman, Executive Committee

## From the Secretary

We have a new home — but our purpose is fixed — to further the cause dear to the heart of Fred Fagley, our beloved founder and friend. We honor his memory by carrying forward the great work he laid down. We are deeply grateful for the continuing concern of both Mrs. Fagley and Mrs. Mary von Glatz, former Assistant Secretary in the New York office. The instant and cordial cooperation of the officers of the Society and the Library, and the quick

response of the contributors to these columns are greatly appreciated. The files finally arrived from New York, office space has been provided in the Library, and early in the new year the Secretary sat down to work at a donated desk. In the midst of chaos he took comfort from Phillips' translation of II Corinthians 4: 8, "We may be knocked down, but we are never knocked out." May it be so! Help is always available, especially from John Harrer and Thomas Todd, printer. Forward suggestions are welcome. Let us know what you want to see us do. The future is bright and our hopes are high.

VAUGHAN DABNEY, Secretary

## From the Librarian

Here are a number of books dealing with early Congregational history, or other interests of an historic nature. Price and publisher are given for those who wish to purchase them. They may also be borrowed by mail from the Congregational Library, 14 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Massachusetts.

Porter, H. C. *Reformation and Reaction* Tudor Cambridge. Cambridge University Press. 1958. 52s 6d. (Deals with the pre-Congregational era and its beginnings at the university which bred Congregationalists.)

Morgan, Edmund S. *The Puritan Dilemma*, the Story of John Winthrop. Little Brown \$3.50. (By a Yale professor, the book is concerned with polity, politics, the contribution to the new colony of clergy and laity.)

Manschrek, Clyde, Comp. *Prayers of the Reformers*. Muhlenberg Pr. \$2.50. (An historical collection compiled by a professor at Duke University.)

Westin, Gunnar. *The Free Church Through the Ages*. Trans. from Swedish by Virgil Olson. Broadman Press. 1958. \$4.75.

Nuttall, Geoffrey F. *Visible Saints, the Congregational Way, 1640-1660*. Blackwell, 1952. 25s. (Congregationalism in England when it was also beginning in America.)

Norton, John, Minister of the Church Ipswich in New England. *The Answer; To the Whole Set of Questions of the Celebrated Mr. William Apollonius, Pastor of the Church of Middelburg Looking toward the Resolution of Certain Controversies concerning Church Government now being Agitated in England* (Translated from the Latin by Douglas Houston.) Belknap Press. 1958. \$4.75. (An important book for all students of early Congregationalism. Detailed exposition of 17th Century polity by the learned pastor, John Norton.)

Morgan, Ivonwy. *Prince Charles' Puritan Chaplain; Biography of John Preston, 1581-1628*. Allen & Unwin. 1957. 21s.

Boorstin, Daniel J. *The Americans: The Colonial Experience*. Random. 1958. \$6.00.

JOHN A. HARRER, Librarian

## from the Treasurer

The budget of the Society is modest. For 1950 it was \$7,500.00. In 1958 the Society received \$7,505.93 or \$5.93 over the budget's total. Fortunately the expenditures for 1958 were under the budget total by \$895.76. This means the Society kept within its budget.

Through its brief history the Society has not at any time gone into debt. However, it has been the recipient of very generous appropriations from the American Board, the Board of Home Missions and the General Council. In 1958 these totalled \$3,250.00. Without these appropriations the Society could not have functioned as it has.

Twenty-four conferences appropriated a total of \$1,305.00, one hundred seventy-one churches gave \$1,859.93 and one hundred sixty-seven individuals gave \$804.50. It is evident increased giving from churches and individuals will have to be secured if the appropriations by the Boards and the General Council are first to be reduced and ultimately eliminated.

The Society has now come to a period of transition. Its formative years under the wise and inspired leadership of Dr. Fred Fagley are over. Foundations have been firmly laid. On those foundations the Society is now to build under the guidance of Dr. Vaughan Dabney. This will be a capable and imaginative leadership. This is not a financial report. It is a statement indicating the Society is in a good position financially and well established to increase its service in a new office and under a new secretary. Dr. Fred Fagley had a vision; our Society goes on to an expanded program.

JAMES H. LIGHTBOURNE, Treasurer

## from West to East

Letters received early this year, from California to the Old Bay State, indicate our continental outreach. A note from Mrs. E. C. Upp, Mesa, California, told of plans for a 50th anniversary next fall, and asked advice on how best to use young people. The second letter came from Rev. Russell E. Croker, Ogallala, Nebraska, whose church will observe its 75th. Materials requested were promptly sent. Information and requests also came from Robert J. Luck, chairman of the Centennial Anniversary Committee of Pilgrim Church, Cleveland, Ohio, which anticipates improvement of facilities and extension of community service to include Puerto Rican newcomers. At Pittsfield, Mass., Weston Morrill, historian, indicates that First Church is beginning now to plan for its centennial in 1963! Here are a few samples of mail from seed sown by Fred Fagley, whose work goes forward.

## Church Anniversaries

This is an anniversary year for about 175 churches, Ipswich, Mass., observing its 325th,

and seven marking a 25th anniversary. Rev. William Kaina reports the Huialoha Church in Kaupo, Hawaii, plans for its Centennial. Other Hawaiian churches celebrating are Pearl City, Kahikuonalani, Honomu Christian, Kahului Union. Fifty years ago the church at Naguabo, Puerto Rico, was founded. As Fred Hoskins, General Council Minister, has said: "With rightful pride a church prepares carefully for its anniversary." Send information and requests to the Historical Society.

## The American Board

The observance next year of the sesquicentennial of the American Board will mark a significant event not only in the history of American Christianity but also in the outgoing and ongoing world mission of the church. The article in this issue by Dr. Fred F. Goodsell, the historian of the Board, is greatly appreciated. We hope other historical articles from the pen of Dr. Goodsell will appear in future issues of the News Letter. The story of missions is a golden chapter in the history of our Congregational Christian churches.

## Annual Meeting

This will be held in Boston on Friday, April 10, at noon, with Dean Douglas Horton, Harvard Divinity School, as the speaker. A large and enthusiastic meeting is anticipated, and important business will be transacted. Save the date. The place will be the Church of the New Jerusalem, 136 Bowdoin Street, quite near 14 Beacon Street, the new headquarters of the Historical Society.

## Recent Gifts

These include a large framed photograph of delegates assembled at Plymouth Rock, June 22, 1865, in connection with the meeting in Boston of the National Council of Congregational churches. It was presented by Fred C. Alexander, chairman Research Committee of the famed Jackson Homestead, Newton, Mass.

## Bible Societies Celebrate Their 150th

"One may see in the archives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts the original documents connected with the origin of the Society. First of these is a petition presented to the General Court, June 17, 1809, by William Ellery Channing, William Phillips, and Thomas Dawes, praying liberty to make use of the Representatives' Chamber on the sixth day of July next for the purpose of holding a meeting of the Massachusetts Bible Society."

So writes Secretary Robert W. Coe, of the Massachusetts Bible Society. Special plans for the anniversary observance have been made by Dr. Alton L. Miller, chairman, of Boston. Four other states celebrate the sesquicentennial of their Bible Societies this year — New Jersey, New York, Connecticut and Maine.

## A Centennial in Sabetha, Kansas

In 1858, pioneers from New York settled in Kansas Territory, calling their new hamlet Albany. A Congregational church was founded September 25-26 that same year. Rev. Roswell D. Parker, a Home Missionary and a member of the Andover Kansas Band, was one of their leaders. He preached the organization sermon in a grove, using as a pulpit a flour barrel in which supplies had recently been hauled from a Missouri River landing. The infant church was urged to place itself under the care of the American Home Missionary Society. Later the town and church moved to nearby Sabetha mainly because the new railroad was located there. The present pastor is Rev. Seymour Duane Ogden.

Last year the Sabetha church published an attractive history which includes a fascinating story of the days when Albany was a station of the underground railroad. In this centennial brochure is a photostat copy of the original letter of Rev. Roswell D. Parker reporting to the American Home Missionary Society the founding of the Albany church. This copy was provided by the Hammond Library of the Chicago Theological Seminary which houses the archives of the Home Missionary Society. Here is a sample paragraph from the Sabetha centennial history, containing a quotation from a founder.

"We came to Kansas," William B. Slosson wrote, "to make the state free, and incidentally to get for ourselves a quarter section of land." This curious mixture of idealism and practicality his son was much later to call characteristic of the spirit of Kansas. Edwin E. Slosson, editor of Science Service, Washington, D. C., in a Commencement address at the University of Kansas in 1924, pointed to the combination of mystical stars and a realistic ox-drawn plow on the Kansas seal, symbolizing the motto *ad astra per aspera*."

Churches contemplating preparation of a centennial booklet may borrow this history of the forward looking church in Sabetha by writing the Historical Society, now located at 14 Beacon Street, Boston.

## A Look Ahead

In his annual report to the Society for 1957 Dr. Fagley wrote as follows: "The fastest growing feature is the enrollment and the assistance of local church historians. We now have 105 enrolled and with these people there is a lively correspondence. We plan the development of this feature of our program, issuing helpful information that can be distributed widely to pastors and church officials; also the enlistment of additional church historians."

Already the new Secretary has heard from various churches, and desires names of recently appointed church historians. It will be interesting to discover how many new churches founded in the last decade have appointed church historian. Information from new churches in so-called high potential areas will record the ongoing of our common denominational program. Federated and union churches are also asked to report. We have made a fine start, but the list of about a thousand church historians does not adequately represent the strength and historical interest of our fellowship. When the summer issue of the New Letter appears we should like to report the appointment of additional church historians.

### A Lenten Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, Who hates nothing that Thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent, create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, may obtain of Thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

# THE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Arthur H. Bradford**   **James H. Lightbourne**   **Vaughan Dabney**  
**President**              **Treasurer**              **Secretary**

14 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass.

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